

II. CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 3 as set forth herein.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting agglutination in a sample of cells, comprising the steps of inducing a the cells ~~to change at least one of their properties of the shape of the cells~~ so as to separate agglutinated cells and detecting the resultant alteration in the cell population.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising the step of measuring the force required to separate agglutinated cells.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the cell sample is subject to an alteration to cause the cells to sphere.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, in which the alteration is a change in osmolality of a liquid medium in which the cells are suspended.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which alterations in the cell population are detected by passing one or more aliquots of the cell sample through a sensor which is adapted to count the number of cells passing through the sensor.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, in which the sample is fed continuously into a solution the osmolality of which is changed continuously to produce a continuous series of aliquots of cells which are passed through the sensor.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of pretreating the sample of cells to induce, or at least attempt to induce, agglutination.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the cell sample is obtained from a source of whole blood.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, in which the sample of cells are treated with antibodies from a different source.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, in which the cells are treated in order to determine the blood type.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10, in which the cells are treated in order to cross-match the sample.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, in which the antibodies from the different source are manufactured, or come from whole blood, plasma or serum.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which the sample of cells is pre-treated by exposure to heat.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which the sample is warmed to a temperature of between 35°C to 40°C, preferably 37°C.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, in which the sample of cells is pre-treated by cooling the sample.